

for future fulfillment of emergency service response to residents, visitors, cooperators, and those traveling through the county. Communication and computer support infrastructure upgrading requirements are identified in the hazard prioritization and mitigation strategy sections.

Transportation corridors, specifically State Highways 31 and 33 are vulnerable to closure by wildfires and smoke (both temporary and long term closure). Numerous U.S. Forest Service roads are also vulnerable to closure by wildfire and have been closed because of wildfires.

4.0 HAZARD LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

Hazards from wildfire can be found throughout Teton County. Location of WUI areas that are at high or extreme risk due to location and adjacent wildfire fuels are identified in Appendix A, Map 4. The areas identified as extreme incur high fuel loadings next to or in close proximity to developments or homes. Ingress/egress issues, signage, and creation of defensible space by homeowners are included in mitigation recommendations. County emergency services communications, updating and coordinating countywide emergency dispatch systems, and emergency equipment are defined and described within the hazard identification and mitigation sections.

Wildfire specialists, County Fire Department personnel, and Federal agencies have participated in the identification of the various hazards. Questionnaires addressing wildfire structural risk and hazard identification have been distributed and received from private home owners and various stakeholders of the county including emergency services personnel.

5.0 HAZARD POTENTIAL AND TRENDS

The interface areas within Teton County are characterized by a diverse mixture of housing structural types, development patterns, ornamental and natural vegetation and natural fuels.

In the event of a wildfire, vegetation, structures and other flammable materials can combine with unpredictable results. Reviewing past wildland/urban interface fires shows that property may be destroyed or damaged for one or more of the following reasons:

- Combustible roofing material;
- Wood construction;
- Structures with no defensible space;
- Development with poor access to structures for fire protection;
- Developments located in heavy natural fuel types;
- Structure/properties located on steep slopes covered with flammable vegetation;
- Limited water supply; and
- Winds over 30 miles per hour.